

## Twitter, Facebook, Online Forum Round 2

Proposal	Comment/Impact/Idea
<b>Procurement</b>	Well, if DBC think it necessary to contract out any of the services previously undertaken by council staff, then I sincerely hope that that there will be no hint of 'crossing palms with silver', to get the jobs done properly, promptly and efficiently. I would expect a strict and regular inspection system to be in place to prevent abuse of contracts. What structured analysis did the council utilise for the needs of the community and the nice to have's.
<b>Management and Departmental Restructuring</b>	Obviously there is a need for a more open and transparent approach to management but this should not be at the expense of junior members of staff. If we are paying the chief executive more than the prime minister what is the logic that convinces junior personnel that they must go and seniors must stay.
<b>Employee pay freeze</b>	Never mind the council staff pay freeze. What about the service cuts which as ratepayers we have to pay for. COUNCIL WASTE I.E. £6millions + sickness pay paid out last year. £3.5millions paid out this year so far. Why cannot they pay for their own sickness benefits privately like many in the private sector have to do? Double the legal minimum redundancy payments to be paid. Another 4/5000 million pounds extra taken from the ratepayer. These council staff live in a dream world, try working in the private sector then you really will have something to complain about.
<b>Cycle and Pedestrian Training</b>	I have always questioned why the public fund these training activities anyway. Surely, as for generations gone by, teaching children to cross the road correctly and introducing them to cycling sensibly was the responsibility of parents. In this period of public financial constraint it should revert to the parents again.
<b>Street Scene</b>	Hmmmm... Street cleaning in Darlington in some instances is simply non existent, that is, if you mean proper 'cleaning' or 'sweeping'. The use of that powered sweeper wagon that periodically goes around the streets and estates should be discontinued and the costs saving put to better use. In most out of out of town streets, where double parking is most prominent, the sweeper rarely ever gets close to the kerb because of the size on his wagon. What we see is a council worker having a jolly ride around for a few hours and making his way back to the depot! Bring back the barrow and brush man, and save money by getting rid of that ride around brush wagon.
<b>Early Years Inclusion</b>	It was recently revealed that the EYIS are providing advice, guidance & support to "private" settings within the DBC area. It appears that these "services" are being provided on a "no-cost" basis. I am concerned that at time of financial restraints DBC are providing a valuable service "free of charge"? I have little doubt that the "private" settings in question are NOT offering "free" places to families with children with "special needs". This appears to be a glaring over-sight and a missed opportunity to access a valuable "funding stream". That extra funding stream may

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	save part of the EYIS team and allow the invaluable service to be saved!
<b>Early Years Inclusion</b>	<p>To whom it may concern, I find it totally appalling that the council should wish to delete the Early Years Inclusion Service. Without doubt this service provides full value for council tax payers. Recently there was a petition handed over to the Councillor Cyndi Hughes with 3575 signatures on it. These people from Darlington have said by signing this petition that they are against this immoral proposal. The work done by these dedicated professionals is excellent and my 3 year old son is living proof of this. My son has autism. Before receiving help from the inclusion team, my son was reclusive and extremely short tempered, but now less than 5 months later, he has a totally relaxed mind and has started to become extremely vocal. To see the change in him is remarkable. Should this proposal go through, we are heading toward the days of exclusion. Lets make sure that we don't allow this to happen.</p>
<b>General</b>	Does the Council have any plans for switching off unnecessary street lighting to reduce costs and waste?